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I am Holly



Chapter 1 by Molly G

My name is Holly Benek and I'm nine. Ever since I reached the age of five, I've been a chimney sweep. Pushed around, starved. Nobody wanted to know me- I was an 'it'. They didn't care for me. In their eyes, I wasn't a human being. I had no feelings. I was nothing.

This morning I was sitting under a bridge, huddled in my ripped blanket that was covered in grime. The blanket probably did no good, but it was a comfort thing- one of my last threads to my old life. I had not eaten for days and felt like my spirit was seeping out of my body, leaving an empty shell. I was becoming the 'thing' everyone wanted me to be- a soul-less child who would obey orders and a worker that could be sent to 'its' death doing their job. They had hated my rebellious spirit. Now it barely existed.

A young man plodded up to me and sat down beside me. I was surprised. Who would want to sit down next to a ragged girl, in a damp, cold space? When he looked at me, with bright, intense eyes, I knew he was about to say something that would change my life forever...

Chapter 2 by Isabella Slupski



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started treating me like a human. For a few years life was good, no, great. But that all ended the day that i came home to police officers swarming my house like wasps and the words that cut through me like a machete, "your mother is dead,"

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